

In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A Method ~~method~~ of making an outer lever (1) of a finger lever (2) that can be switched to different lifts for at least one gas exchange valve, said outer lever (1) comprising two substantially parallel arms (4,5) whose ends (6,7) are connected by crossbars (8,9) so that a rectangular or O-like aperture (10) for an inner lever (11) that is capable of pivoting relative to the outer lever (1) is formed, a running contact surface (14,15) for a high-lift cam being arranged on an upper side (12,13) of each arm (4,5), **characterized by said method of comprising the** following work steps ~~that may also contain to~~ which further intermediate steps may be added:

- a) deep drawing a cup-shaped base body (16) out of a ~~Metal~~ metal sheet or a sheet metal strip such that at least one drawing die is applied to the metal sheet or the sheet metal strip from an underside (17,18) of the arms (4,5) to be formed and a substantial height of the arms (4,5) and the crossbars (8,9) in the cup-shaped base body (16) is produced, so that, as viewed in cross-section, an inverse U-shaped profile is formed,
- b) reducing a radius ($R_{1,2}$) in the edge region between a bottom (19) of the cup-shaped base body (16) and outer sides (20,21) of the arms (4,5) by shaping, typically stamping or extrusion at least in the region of the running contact surfaces (14,15) to be subsequently formed, and
- c) punching out the bottom (19) of the cup-shaped base body (16) except for at least the two opposing running contact surfaces (14,15).

Claim 2 (currently amended) A Method method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ simultaneously with, or directly or indirectly after step a), a further step is carried out in which the drawing die or at least one further drawing die or a stamping die is applied to the bottom (19) in deep drawing direction in a vicinity of the end (7), so that, one of a laterally open or closed lug-like cavity (22, 23) is formed, and the material of the cavity (22) is also punched out in step c) except for an extension (23b, 23a) starting from the crossbar (9) ~~on said one of the end (7).~~

Claim 3 (currently amended) A Method method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a finger (24) pointing in a longitudinal direction of the lever is punched out of the bottom (19) in step c) simultaneously with the running contact surfaces (14, 15), which finger (24) is bent away from the aperture (10) in a consequent step so as to project upwards from the crossbar (9).

Claim 4 (currently amended) A Method method of claim 2 or 3, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ when referring back to claim 2, the cavity (22, 23), or when referring back to claim 3, the finger (24) extends ~~centrally away from a center~~ the crossbar (9).

Claim 5 (currently amended) A Method method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bottom (19) is cut off in step c) such that inner surfaces (25, 26, 27, 28) of the arms (4, 5) and the crossbars (8, 9), except for the running contact surfaces (14, 15), merge directly or at least approximately directly into the upper sides (12, 13, 29, 30).

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~A Method~~ method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the running contact surfaces (14, 15) made in step c) have a beam-like geometry and possess, as viewed in longitudinal direction, a slightly cylindrical shape.

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~A Method~~ method of claim 1 ~~or 6, characterized in that wherein~~ the running contact surfaces (14, 15) made in step c) extend approximately at a center of the arms (4, 5).

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~A Method~~ method of claim 2 ~~or 3, characterized in that wherein~~ step c) is followed by a further step d) in which two aligned receptions (31, 32) are one of punched or bored into the arms (4, 5) in the vicinity of the crossbar (8) that is opposed to the crossbar (9) comprising the cavity (22, 23) ~~or the finger (24)~~, and said receptions (31, 32) serve to receive an axle for the pivoted mounting of the inner lever (11) relative to the outer lever (1).

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~A Method~~ method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the running contact ~~surfaces~~ surface of each (14, 15) ~~on the arms arm~~ (4, 5) of the outer lever (1) ~~are~~ is intended for a contact with a high-lift cam.

Please add the following claims:

Claim 10 (new) A method of claim 3, wherein the finger extends from a center of the crossbar.

Claim 11 (new) A method of claim 7, wherein the running contact surfaces made in step c) extend approximately at a center of the arms.

Claim 12 (new) A method of claim 3, wherein step c) is followed by a further step d) in which two aligned receptions are one of punched or bored into the arms in a vicinity of the crossbar that is opposed to the crossbar comprising the finger, and said receptions serve to receive an axle for a pivoted mounting of the inner lever relative to the outer lever.